

BILL SHUSTER
9TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

SUBCOMMITTEES:

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RAILROADS, PIPELINES AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIAL

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3809

August 1, 2012

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:

TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES

EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS

RURAL HEALTH CARE COALITION

CONGRESSIONAL
SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS

MILITARY DEPOT CAUCUS

Lisa Jackson, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

I would like to bring to your attention concerns I have regarding the economic impact of Chesapeake Bay initiative mandates on small communities, specifically in my congressional district.

In this economic climate, small communities are increasingly financially squeezed. Every time I am in my district I hear from local government representatives voicing concerns over EPA's policies and unfunded mandates, including the cumulative impacts of multiple regulatory requirements being imposed on them and over how EPA is dealing with communities to address the regulatory mandates that EPA is imposing on them.

The biggest concern I have is the financial impact on these communities. These regulations often times require major upgrades to facilities, which come at a very high cost. Municipalities cannot afford these upgrades without significant rate increases on customers.

Take for example Gallitzin, Pennsylvania, which falls within my congressional district. Gallitzin has to expand and upgrade facilities to comply with the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) policy to address 85% combined sewer overflow capture established by the EPA. Also, Gallitzin has to meet the nutrient reduction mandated as a discharger to the Chesapeake Bay. These requirements amount to a \$17M upgrade for the Sewer Authority. Gallitzin estimates \$100 a month increase in resident's sewer rates, more than triple their current rate. In this economic climate, that kind of cost increase can be devastating.

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What is the EPA doing to help small communities meet these mandates? What kind of assistance is available or what can be done to assist these small communities? I ask that you take these concerns into consideration and provide some support to my constituents. Please share with me any resources that I can make available to my district. I am also including a letter sent to me from the Gallitzin Water Authority requesting assistance. I request that you reach out to them directly to provide any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Shuster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Shuster
Member of Congress

CC: Roger Renninger, President
Gallitzin Borough Council
DeGol Plaza 411 Convent Street, Suite 10
Gallitzin, PA 16641-1295
814-886-8871 (phone)

July 2, 2012

Rep. Bill Shuster
310 Penn Street, Suite 200
Hollidaysburg, PA
16648

We are writing to you today to voice many concerns about a predicament that has been presented to the towns' people of Gallitzin AND Tunnelhill Boroughs serviced by the Gallitzin Sewer & Disposal Authority at a public meeting held on May 31, 2012.

It has been brought to our community's attention that the residents' sewer rates could triple averaging \$100.00 per month due to the Chesapeake Bay Initiative mandated requirements that are causing a 17 million dollar upgrade for our Sewer Authority. Gallitzin is a borderline Chesapeake region community, less than three miles from being completely out of the Chesapeake region. Please be mindful that we the community, understand the reasoning for this mandate, the high nutrient levels flowing to the bay due to the farm lands and animal waste produced, of which Gallitzin and Tunnelhill boroughs are not among the offenders of the farming industry.

The boroughs of Gallitzin and Tunnelhill fall under the same zip code but are separate boroughs serviced by the Sewer Authority. This area is a small bedroom community with an average income of \$31,818.00 based on the 2010 census report. According to the Cambria County detailed profile of 2009 the average household income was \$38,870.00 this is a drop of \$7,052.00 per household in one year for our residents. The tripled rate would be 4% of the average households net income these statistics would put a great strain on the residents of these communities.

We the undersigned on the attached petition are requesting assistance in as many forms as possible. Can the EPA and PA DEP revisit the mandate for Gallitzin to reevaluate if we can be eliminated, lessened or phased in to the mandated requirements?

Is it possible to arrange a meeting with the above named agencies and you or your staff to attend a meeting with our Boroughs and Sewer officials to try to formulate a workable solution? Are you and your staff aware of any grant funding at the state or federal level to assist our community?

Please contact our Borough President Roger Renninger at 814-242-1384. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

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